though different plants possess every intermediate variety in the form of the leaf, from circular to linear. Their size and colour are likewise variable. The flowers are solitary on long peduncles from the forks of the stem. Calyx spreading, divided into five obtuse segments. Inner segments or nectaries five, small, gibbous. Stamens numerous, in five parcels, appearing, at different times, two or three together, with double anthers. The fertile flowers have a large, roundish, drooping, pedicelled germ, crowned with six revolute stigmas. Capsule three celled.

The dried root of the Euphorbia ipecacuanha is of a greyish colour outside, and white within. It is light and brittle and has about the hardness of cork. To the taste it is sweetish and not particularly unpleasant.

I subjected some portions of the root to chemical examination and obtained the following results.—Sulphuric ether digested on the powdered root dissolves a part of it; and this ethereal solution gives a precipitate, if alcohol is added to it.—Alcohol alone takes up another portion of the root, and assumes a pearly turbidness after water is added. Both the ethereal and alcoholic solutions, evaporated to dryness, leave a residuum which is fusible and inflammable. The decoction

gives no precipitate with gelatin or sulphate of iron. With alcohol it gave out a white precipitate which rendered the solution turbid, and subsided in flocks. The cold infusion exhibited the same phenomena in a smaller degree. From these appearances we may infer that the root contains caoutchouc, resin, mucus and probably fæcula.

The Euphorbia ipecacuanha has long been known to possess the same property, which is so frequent in its genus, of exciting the stomach powerfully as an emetic. The appropriation of its specific name seems even to imply that such a property had been recognised in this species in a more eminent degree, than in the rest. It does not appear, however, that it has ever continued long in use, this being prevented, probably, by the suspicious character of the race of plants to which it belongs. The late Dr. Barton mentions this vegetable among his indigenous emetics, but considers it too violent and uncertain to be depended on as a safe medicine.

Within a few years the plant has been attended to by some medical gentlemen in Philadelphia, who report more favourably of its powers and mode of operation; and consider it as a safe, certain and manageable emetic, applica-

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